

POLITICAL AFFAIRS
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IDEAS IN OUR TIME

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The United States Today: An Overall View*

The General Chairman for this notable event submitted to panelists a series of questions to which he hoped they would address themselves. He kindly added, "they are not intended to be restrictive, nor is it necessary that all the questions be answered."

I found the questions excellent and see no reason why I should not base my remarks upon them; on the contrary, since they have occurred to my hosts it is only proper that I turn to them. Two cautions are in order: we panelists quite properly have been limited to thirty minutes each; and whether I am *able* actually to answer all the questions of course the audience must decide.

I: Briefly, What in Your View is Capitalism? Socialism? Communism?

Capitalism is a socio-economic system of commodity production, wherein the means of production are privately owned, the fundamental motivation for production is profit and to be successful means, essentially, to be wealthy.

Socialism is a socio-economic system of production of goods, wherein the means of production are not privately owned but are rather owned by the society as a collective, the motive for production is social need and well-being and to be successful means to be creative and useful.

Communism is a social order wherein the needs, drives and obscurities of acquisitive societies have been overcome and rendered obsolete because the socialized ownership of production, the planning of such production and the application and enhancing of people's usefulness have resulted in abundance, absence of coercion and habitual human conduct.

* This paper was delivered February 17, 1967, at "Dialogue '67," a three-day event held under the auspices of the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada. Presenting a contrary view was Professor G. Warren Nutter, formerly a section chief for the C.I.A., and now Chairman, Department of Economics, University of Virginia. Participating in this Dialogue were Ontario's Prime Minister, Canada's Minister of External Affairs and the leaders of all Canada's parties, including Tim Buck of the Communist Party.